

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Tricia Wilson – Turning Challenges into Opportunities



Tricia Wilson loves challenges. “For me a challenge is not a wall,” she says. “A challenge is an opportunity for me to exercise my brain and figure out how I’m going to adapt.” This 49-year-old entrepreneur from Rockwall, Texas, believes that the National Veterans Wheelchair Games are the perfect outlet for her to face new challenges and turn them into opportunities.

A former stocking and accounting specialist in the Army and Marine Corps, Wilson now owns her own business, *ABC Home Medical*. A medical supply business based in Texas, the company is also a bronze level sponsor of the Wheelchair Games. Her goal in business is to provide an opportunity for her clients to be more adaptive in their own lives, and to succeed in a world not necessarily designed for their needs. “When I’m working with clients who are not veterans, I realize how fortunate I am to be able to participate in the Games,” she says. “There are challenges and opportunities at the Games that others will never be able to experience.”

Though Wilson has attended the Games since 1995, she insists that every year still brings new challenges. “Each year, there are new events to try and new improvements in equipment that can be explored,” she says. Participating with new teammates allows her to meet people and build upon her vast network of friends. “New teammates keep the Games fresh for me, and quite often I make connections with people that I keep in touch with all year long. The Games have been such an empowering experience in my life and have allowed me to develop a family of hundreds,” she says. Wilson is adamant about that – the people she has come to know through the Games, the participants, sponsors, coaches and volunteers are very close to her. She says, “They’re not *like* family to me – they *are* my family.”

When she isn’t busy with her business or her own family, which consists of three children and three grandchildren, Wilson loves to travel. Taking four to five trips a year isn’t unusual for her, and she recently returned from a trip to the Dominican Republic. Even while traveling, she is always on the lookout for new challenges as well as potential opportunities. She is quick to point out improvements that hotel managers can implement to make amenities more convenient for someone in a wheelchair, while at the same time maintaining convenience for someone who is not. She says, “I don’t want to live in a world that excludes me, or excludes anyone without a disability – I just want to live in a world where everyone’s needs are included.”

“I don’t live in a worse world than I did before [I was injured], just a different one,” Wilson says. Whether she’s competing in the Games, busy at work, enjoying family and friends, or traveling the world, she remains ready to face any challenges she comes across and turn them into brand new opportunities.